IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the disposal of sulfur comprising:

melting sulfur to provide molten sulfur; and

injecting the molten sulfur into <u>a</u> geological structures having a temperature ranging from 90 to 160°C.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the disposed sulfur comes from purification treatment of hydrocarbons of a fossil nature (crude oil) or from a natural gas.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the molten sulfur comes directly from the Claus process.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the sulfur comes from a surface storage site.

Claims 5-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the geological structures which are appropriate for receiving molten sulfur are those is one forming the reservoir from which crude oil or natural gas containing sulfur are removed.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1, A process for the disposal of sulfur comprising:

Application No. 10/562,434

Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2006

melting sulfur to provide molten sulfur; and

injecting the molten sulfur into a geological structure having a temperature ranging from 90 to 160°C,

wherein melting sulfur is performed in the presence of hydrogen sulfide.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 9, wherein the hydrogen sulfide is used in a mixture with other gases which do not have the capacity of reducing the melting point of the sulfur.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein the gas mixed with hydrogen sulfide is methane or carbon dioxide.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 9, wherein the hydrogen sulfide is separated from natural gas.

Claim 13 (New): The process according to claim 9, wherein the sulfur comes from purification treatment of hydrocarbons of a fossil nature or from a natural gas.

Claim 14 (New): The process according to claim 9, wherein the molten sulfur comes directly from the Claus process.

Claim 15 (New): The process according to claim 9, wherein the sulfur comes from a surface storage site.

Application No. 10/562,434

Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2006

Claim 16 (New): The process according to claim 9, wherein the geological structure is one forming the reservoir from which crude oil or natural gas containing sulfur are removed.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the geological structure is a matrix geological structure.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the geological structure is a fractured structure.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to claim 14, wherein the geological structure is a naturally fractured structure.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to claim 14, wherein the geological structure is an induced fractured structure.